The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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COMPENSATION BILL SIGNED

Washington, Sept. 16.—Last week President Wilson signed the Kern-McGillicuddy workmen's compensation act, which provides compensation for injuries and fatalities to the 400,000 employes of the federal government.

The organization covered but one-fourth of this number, or those engaged in hazardous occupations. A government commission is created to administer the new law. Three commissioners at $5,000 a year will be appointed to serve for three years and they make such rules and regulations as are necessary for the enforcement of the law, and are empowered to make decisions.

The payments for disability, as specified in the act, are as follows:

Total disability, 66 2-3 per cent of the monthly pay during the continuance of the disability, not to exceed $66.67 a month, and not less than $22.33, unless the employe's monthly pay is less than $33.33, in which case the compensation is to be full pay.

Partial disability, 66 2-3 per cent of the difference between the monthly pay at the time of the injury and the monthly wage-earning capacity after the beginning of the partial disability, not to exceed $66.67 per month.

Medical, surgical and hospital services and supplies for a reasonable time and in a reasonable amount will be furnished to the injured employe by the government. The exact details of this provision are left to the commission.

A CLEAR-HEADED EDITOR.

San Francisco, Sept. 16.—While other newspaper editors are pawing the air and using expensive white paper cambric to "save the last ditch of the republic" because congress made it possible to avoid a railroad strike, the San Francisco Bulletin submits this cold analysis:

"If there were no minority in the United States with more power than it ought to have, brotherhoods have there would be no reason to worry about the fate of the republic. If there were no minority in the United States whose power to do harm was not conditioned, as that of the railroad brotherhoods is, by the habitual performance of a valuable service, there would still be no reason to worry. But the armed brotherhoods are mere straws compared with the powers which actually dominate the industries of the United States. Louis Brandeis, now a supreme court justice, showed in his book on 'Other People's Money' that the credit and capital of the United States is controlled by ring within ring of great financiers, centering in less than a dozen men. These men can, if they desire, frustrate the will of the interstate commerce commission, wreck or make railroads, create or prevent panics. And their power does not depend on the service rendered, nor is it harmful merely when they cease operations, as in the case of the brotherhoods."

ARIZONA GOVERNOR LAUDED.

Trinidad, Col., Sept. 16.—Editor O'Neill of the Trinidad Free Press has this to say of Governor Hunt of Arizona, whose action in declaring martial law and refusing to admit professional strikebreakers to that state during the recent copper strike "saved the day":

"We want corporate combines have declared war against a man who scorned to prostitute his office to minister to the financial cupidity of industrial despots. Governor Hunt stood with both feet upon the constitution of the state and declared that the majesty of the law should be held sacred during the struggle and that the issue between the upper magnates of Arizona and their exploited slaves of Clifton and Morenci.

"During more than five months of industrial conflict the supremacy of the law was maintained without the use of arms and though 5,000 were involved in a struggle for more humane conditions not a single forger, yet there was not a bloodshed to redden a page of Arizona's history.

"The thug and gunman were sent on a mission to Arizona by the governor of a state who placed a higher value on human life than on dividends."

ILLINOIS UNIONISTS TO MEET.

Quincy, Ill., Sept. 16.—Officers of the state federation of labor have issued a call for the annual convention to be held in this city beginning October 16. In urging all affiliates to be represented, it is stated that:

"We are in a very critical period of our industrial progress. Enemies of labor are seeking to establish, by means of involuntary servitude, binding workers to the shops, mines, factories and railroads by means of compulsory arbitration and other schemes whereby strikes are held to be illegal until some political or authority passes upon the issue in dispute.

"Are you prepared to do your share in the fight to secure the enactment of labor's injunction-limitation bill? Will you do your part in the struggle to safeguard the liberties of the people? Will you judge from denying the constitutional rights of free speech, free press and free assemblage, and to uphold the right of organized effort for working men and women?"

BROOM MAKERS ADVANCE.

Chicago, Sept. 16.—After a two days' strike, broom makers signed agreements with 21 local factories, increasing wages from $14 to $16 and decreasing the work day from nine to eight hours. Secretary-Treasurer Boyce states that the union broom makers employed by the United States Broom & Brush company work for a wage of 6 per cent less than the union rate. A canvass of retail stores in this city by officers of the Broom Makers' union found only 8 dealers out of 1,000 were handling non-union brooms.

Milwaukee broom makers have raised wages 2 a day without a strike.

Logansport, Ind., broom makers have won a three years' strike against E. W. Fider and have a union label agreement and increased wages 25 per cent.

FAVOR "HIGHEST WAGE" RATE.

Detroit, Sept. 16.—By a popular vote Detroit citizens have adopted a charter amendment which provides that common labor employed by the city shall not receive less than the highest prevailing wage in that particular grade of work. Eight hours shall constitute a day's work and double time shall be paid for Sunday and holiday work, except in cases of emergency. The amendment was urged by organized labor.

KEEP FALSE LABOR RECORDS.

Belleville, Ill., Sept. 16.—State officials charge the Kinloch Long Distance Telephone company with keeping false records to show factory inspectors that it is obeying the law regulating working hours for women.

MOLDERS WANT EIGHT HOURS.

Philadelphia, Sept. 16.—Iron molders employed by Cresson & Morris are on strike for the eight-hour day and union recognition. About 100 workers are involved.

NON-UNION SHOP WILL FAIL

San Francisco, Sept. 16.—In a Labor day speech Mayor Rolph predicted that the anti-union campaign of the chamber of commerce will fail, despite its catch phrases of "open shop" and "law and order."

"The price of labor is something entirely different from the price of barrels or of grain. The man who sells his labor is selling not a commodity, but his life," said Mayor Rolph.

"The price of labor is the welfare of the nation; the price of labor is the pride of men, the honor of women, the hoping of children, and the price of labor is the price of life, of liberty, of happiness.

"In San Francisco at this moment a strong effort is being made in certain quarters to destroy organized labor. . . . I prophesy the failure of this movement.

"I am sure that not even a considerable minority of our people is in sympathy with any campaign to destroy organized labor, a movement which would prejudice a wonderful and beneficial principle which settles nothing, brings no good to any one and divides a community for no reason.

"The public is informed, however, that this campaign is not a direct attack on organized labor. Most opponents of organized labor declare that they do not wish to destroy the unions, but only to compel the unions to exist if they confine themselves to the functions of benevolent societies, relieving the sick and burying the dead—but they must not attempt to deal with the wages or conditions of employment or interfere with the inalienable right of every man to work whether he belongs to a union or not.

"According to this school of thought every man has an inalienable right to work, but no inalienable right to secure employment go into any shop or factory or bank and, relying upon his inalienable right to work, demand a job. He will soon find that his inalienable right to work is nothing, but a gross mockery and that the only real inalienable right he has is the right to starve."

ST. LOUIS DRIVERS ENJOINED.

St. Louis, Mo., Sept. 16.—Striking milk wagon drivers have been enjoined by Circuit Judge Anderson, who commands these workers not to attempt to induce strikebreakers to quit their jobs.

The strikers are also ordered not to use threats, intimidation, personal violence or other means "intended to terrorize and alarm."

While the statutes make ample provision for the trial and punishment of any person who threatens, intimidates or uses violence, an injunction has special value as a strikebreaking process.

When a workingman is charged with violation of law, when no strike exists, he is assumed to be innocent until proven guilty and is accorded a jury trial. Under the injunction process, however, it is only necessary for the employer, or his attorney, to claim a strike has intimidated or used violence. The striker is then ordered to appear before the judge and show by affidavits and proof that he is innocent. He is denied a jury trial and is assumed to be guilty until he proves his innocence.

Because trade unionists are demanding equality before the law they are being punished for striking to improve working conditions, they are wrongfully charged with defrauding a license commissioner and with asking for special privileges.

Workers oppose injunctions because these writs issued in equity do not suspend trial by jury, reverse the accepted rule that a man is innocent until proven guilty and make the strike-breaking as lawmaker, jurist and executioner, to suspend every constitutional guarantee.

DEMAND HUMAN RIGHTS.

Chicago, Sept. 16.—A special committee on injunctions, appointed by the last state federation of labor convention and a special committee of seven representatives from May in this city, asked primary candidates for attorney general, state senators and state representatives for their views on labor's injunction-limitation bill.

The workers said:

"This bill is regarded by organized labor as the most important measure to be introduced at the coming session of the Illinois legislature. Its purpose is to restore to the working people of Illinois fundamental rights, including those of free speech, free press and assemblage necessary to liberty. It was drafted by representatives of the American Federation of Labor, after a great deal of careful consideration.

"On this special committee are representatives of trade unions, railroad brotherhoods and the Farmer's Educational and Co-operative union.

COLORADO MINERS JOIN UNION.

Trinidad, Col., Sept. 16 — Coal miners in the northern district of District 15 United Mine Workers' union and the civil war precipitated by the coal operators in the southern district of Illinois have been established in a score of mining camps with a 100 per cent membership, and the workers call attention to the fact that they are not molested by mine officials and the usual notices posted around the mines no longer mysteriously disappear.

They claim that the Rockefeller "union" is valueless has brought results, as the Colorado Fuel & Iron company has raised the eight-hour day minimum for men. The employes believe, however, that the wave of bona fide trade unionism is responsible for this increase.

POLISHERS STANDING FIRM.

Woodstock, Ill., Sept. 16.—Striking metal polishers at the Woodstock Typewriter company have refused the company's demand for a nine-hour day. It is claimed this concern pays one of the lowest rates in the country.

Toledo, Ohio, Sept. 16—The Metal Polishers' union has secured the eight-hour day from the Toledo Cooker company after an eight months' strike. The company manufactures aluminum cooking utensils.

KEY MEN INCREASE WAGES.

St. Paul, Minn., Sept. 16.—Northern Pacific railroad telegraph operators have awarded wage increases, shorter hours and improved working conditions. A nine-hour day and a seven-hour night schedule will become effective above October 1 and affects 800 men.

ORGANIZING CIGAR GIRLS.

Cincinnati, Sept. 16.—The Cigarmakers' union is conducting an organizing campaign among girls employed in this industry. Miss Frieda Miller of the International union has appointed a special organizer for this work.

BRADDOCK STRIKE SETTLED.

Braddock, Pa., Sept. 16.—Wire drawers employed by the American Steel and Wire company secured a wage increase of 1 cents an hour after a short strike. The new scale is 40 cents an hour.

NEW YORK CAR MEN STRIKE

New York, Sept. 16.—Because of an attempt by street railroad managers to destroy the recently-organized Street Car Men's union, the surface street railway system in this city has been completely tied up the past week, while transportation on the numerous elevated lines and on the net work of subway routes has been badly crippled. The strike vote was taken Wednesday, Sept. 6, and affected the Interborough Rapid Transit company and New York City Railway company—two companies with the same officials. Later the strike spread to other lines and northward into Westchester county.

The direct cause of the strike was the attempt of the Interborough, controlling the elevated and subway lines, to foist an individual contract on its employes binding them not to strike for two years or to take part in any movement having for its purpose the reformation of conditions during this period. Officers of the company have stated that any violation of this agreement would be subject to discipline," and would also result in a suit for damages, which would be brought against the individual employe by the company. The Street Car Men's union demanded that the company accept these agreements and cease issuing bulletins containing the information that any employe who refused to sign the agreement would be discharged. The company replied that the men could use no force or violence in the event they were wronged.

When the strike started President Shonts of the New York Railways and Interborough companies announced that the strike "is ended as far as we are concerned." Quackenbush, general counsel for the latter company, said: "If there are any serious disorders we can employ a few night sticks—not revolvers—where they are needed, the strike won't last long."

But the response by organized labor surprised them. The later announced to the public that his fight was not against unionism."

President Gompers has been in consultation with local trade unionists during the week discussing means that will bring the strike to a speedy end.

During one of the hearings before the public service commission General Manager Frank Hedley, of the Interborough, admitted that the company had broken its word with employes by refusing to submit to arbitration any question that might arise. For more than half an hour the traction official endeavored to avoid a direct answer to the question. Step by step, however, he was forced to admit that he had given his word to his employes that the basis of settlement of the recent strike on the New York Railways would be accepted as the basis that that strike settlement included arbitration provisions.

STRIKEBREAKERS IN REVOLT.

New York, Sept. 16.—While the public service commission was holding open hearings on the street car strike a crowd of strikebreakers, who had been driven into one of the closely guarded barns in which the "free and independents" are herded, appeared before the commission and told a story of being slugged, robbed and being held as prisoners. The spokesman for the group declared that they had been compelled to live in filth, that the detective agency in charge was the Bascom Service and that they had not been given enough to eat. They said they had been brought here from the Bascom Service Bureau and Waddell Detective Agency and had originally been promised $5 a day. This they received only a few times. Strikebreakers objected they were told to take what was offered them or they would be "beaten up."

"One hundred and fifty strikebreakers, all of them brought here from Chicago," said the spokesman, "are in the cars at 179th street and Third avenue," said the spokesman. "All of them want to quit the strike and want to quit, but the guards won't let them out."

SUPPOSE THEY "TAKE IT."

Topeka, Kan., Sept. 16.—President Ripley of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe railway says he will never, never obey the eight-hour law for railroad employes "unless he is forced to." He also says:

"There is no likelihood that any class of the Santa Fe employes will receive increase in salary until the road is trouble with the trainmen is settled."

Very few points are in Mr. Ripley's statement—his insistence that the eight-hour day is a "wage trouble," and the eight-hour law for other employes will receive no increase.

The latter term permits him to change front if these employes ever charge their conditions, as did the train service men.

STATIONARY FIREMEN UNITE.

Omaha, Sept. 16.—Secretary Shamp of the International Brotherhood of Stationary Firemen reports that the following unions have recently formed:

East St. Louis, Alton and Pekin, Ill.; Burlington, Vt.; Kalamazoo and Menominee, Mich., and Marinette, Wis.

Kansas City, Mo., firemen have raised wages in all county institutions 10 a month. The new rate is $65 a month, eight hours a day, six days a week. Three years ago these employes received $35 a month and worked every day in the year. Trade unionism is responsible for this change.

CONVICTS MISTREATED.

Montgomery, Ala., Sept. 16.—Governor Henderson has been furnished a copy of the evidence, together with the names of witnesses, against the charges preferred by the Bibb county grand jury against J. D. Evans, the state's warden in charge of convict camps. He is charged with cruelty to convicts and with receiving money from them to aid them in obtaining paroles and pardons.

TEAMSTERS SECURE CONTRACT.

St. Louis, Mo., Sept. 16.—After a short strike the Furniture Delivery union secured a three years' union shop contract from the Furniture Movers' association. A minimum wage was agreed to.

Duluth, Minn., Sept. 16.—Coal wagon drivers in this city suspended work for 24 hours and then their employers agreed that a 20 per cent wage increase was not unreasonable.

STATE CARPENTERS MEET.

Evansville, Ind., Sept. 16.—At the state convention of carpenters and joiners, C. F. Wilson was re-elected president and J. L. Tate, of this city, chosen secretary-treasurer. Evansville was selected as the next convention city.

RESTAURANT EMPLOYES STRIKE.

Birmingham, Ala., Sept. 16.—One hundred restaurant employes are on strike for a 10-hour day, time and one-half for overtime, one day off in seven and a grievance committee to adjust future disputes.

SORRY STRIKE IS AVERTED

Washington, Sept. 16.—"It looks like they are sorry the strike was averted," said one conservative man in touch with the eight-hour law for railroad men, in discussing the claims of opponents of this legislation in the house of representatives, last week.

"In the first place," he said, "it is not true that the law fixes wages. That statement is gratuitous and inconsiderate. The law merely says that what has had previously a 16-hour day and a nine-hour day. We now have an eight-hour day and by reference to wages is in the language used to hold in statu quo until the workings of the eight-hour law could be observed all other features of the service adjusted to the eight-hour law. The language means and means only that there shall be no changes in the relations of the parties in any effort of the railroads to impose what they assert to be an increase of wages.

"The present threat of some railroad officials to resist the law and refuse to put it into effect until forced to do so by the courts is strangely inconsistent with the assurances given by the railroad officials, often stated by them and made to the president, that if congress thought they have no objection to an increase of wages if they are permitted to recoup the cost by increased charges on the public. They would no doubt welcome with avidity an increase of wages and expenses and evidently favor it, because they think that they could secure an increase of rate largely out of proportion to the increased expense.

"Those gentlemen who see proper to ignore this unanimous expression by the courts will probably find the first expression from the court in the shape of contempt warrant for failure to comply with the law.

"These gentlemen pretend that the eight-hour law is unconstitutional, that the constitution charges congress with the duty and invests it with the power to regulate interstate commerce, but not that regulation should and does relate to the safety of passengers and property. This is a matter of fact and those facts are based on the idea of public safety. That is the basis of the decision that it is not unconstitutional. If it is a regulation of commerce it is constitutional. The railroad lawyer will deny that prescribing hours of labor for persons operating trains, prescribed in the interest of public safety is a regulation of commerce. If any alleged lawyer gives any such erroneous advice and any railroad official acts on that advice, goes to jail, he should have 'benefit of counsel' far enough to insure the incarceration with him of the infallible lawyer. Then both of them would look well in stripes. I will probably say it is thus adorned if they persist in their announced course."

MEXICAN CONFEREES ARE NOW IN SESSION

New London, Conn., Sept. 16.—Determined to solve differences between the two countries which have long kept up a hostile mediation for shot and shell, representatives of the two countries are now in session here at the city.

The Mexican representatives have emphasized the work of rehabilitating their country, which has been done by the Carranza administration and the progress that is being made in re-establishing order. Proposed reforms in educational and agricultural lines are related to the conferees by the Mexicans, who have pointed out that the recognition of the Carranza government by the United States has constitutionalists in their work.

DISCOVERS A LABOR "SOLUTION."

Montgomery, Ala., Sept. 16.—John H. Wallace, Jr., state game and fish commissioner, has discovered a system whereby strikes and lockouts will no longer obstruct this nation. His plan is simple —appoint an arbitration board to adjust wages, make it illegal to strike while the board is in session and fine all who strike upon public opinion to enforce the award.

Mr. Wallace averred in a Labor day speech:

"The weight of public opinion would undoubtedly be behind the findings of such arbitration, therefore strikes and lockouts, upon the adoption of the recommendation by the government, would become a thing of the past."

This ancient scheme of trying men to their work was foisted on Colorado by the last legislature, but at the recent convention of the state federation of labor it was roundly denounced.

Despite this latest repudiation of compulsion, men still ignore its failure in history and present the system as some new discovery.

STANDARD OIL PLANT STRUCK.

Philadelphia, Sept. 16.—Striking employes of the Standard Oil company are demanding firm in their demand for living conditions despite police activity and numerous arrests of pickets who are charged with "inciting to riot." This company, it is claimed, has dissolved Oil connections and working conditions at this plant are described by the News-Post:

"We'd need to be written of the terrible conditions at the plant it would make interesting reading and point a treneh-dous argument for those critics who admire the basis of democracy in the United States."

As a result of the strike the U. G. I. Corporation increased wages to stop a strike of its employes.

5,000 DEMAND WAGE INCREASE.

Pittsfield, Mass., Sept. 16.—The plant of the General Electric company at this place is tied up because of a strike of 5,000 men and women who are asking for a 10 per cent wage increase and better working conditions. The company has employed large numbers of New York city detectives to "guard its property." It is said a side issue is the attempting to terrorize the strikers, which is the real purpose of the invasion.

REJECTS PEACE OFFER.

Bangor, Me., Sept. 16.—President Ryder of the Bangor Railway & Electric company, whose motormen and conductors are striking for recognition of their union, refused to consider a proposition for the settlement of the strike presented by the strikers through state officials.

GAINS IN CONNECTICUT.

Washington, Sept. 16.—Secretary Cunningham, of the Connecticut State Federation of Labor, writes A. F. of L. Secretary Frank Morrison that that state body has received into affiliation recently 27 new locals, with a membership of 4,700.

LAUNDRY WORKERS ADVANCE.

Conneaut, Ohio, Sept. 16.—Laundry workers have organized and secured the eight-hour day and wage increases. Laundry workers at Ft. Scott, Kan., have also organized.

STRIKE MEDIATION IN OHIO

Columbus, Ohio, Sept. 16.—In a report on strike mediation in this state the industrial commission says mediation cannot settle every dispute and industrial justice, but probably no method of settling industrial disputes can more nearly approach justice if fairly and fearlessly carried out.

"In mediating strikes, the representatives of both parties have seldom been brought together in conference, but have held confidential conferences have been held first with one side and then with the other until the strike spread to other lines and northward into Westchester county. Then the issues are eight-hour day, as had previously a 16-hour day and a nine-hour day. We now have an eight-hour day and by reference to wages is in the language used to hold in statu quo until the workings of the eight-hour law could be observed all other features of the service adjusted to the eight-hour law. The language means and means only that there shall be no changes in the relations of the parties in any effort of the railroads to impose what they assert to be an increase of wages.

"The present threat of some railroad officials to resist the law and refuse to put it into effect until forced to do so by the courts is strangely inconsistent with the assurances given by the railroad officials, often stated by them and made to the president, that if congress thought they have no objection to an increase of wages if they are permitted to recoup the cost by increased charges on the public. They would no doubt welcome with avidity an increase of wages and expenses and evidently favor it, because they think that they could secure an increase of rate largely out of proportion to the increased expense.

"Those gentlemen who see proper to ignore this unanimous expression by the courts will probably find the first expression from the court in the shape of contempt warrant for failure to comply with the law.

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OPPOSE CONTROLLED LABOR

Chicago, Sept. 16.—"Slavery existed only for the purpose of controlling labor. Compulsory arbitration is suggested only for the purpose of controlling labor. Wherein is there any fundamental difference?" asks Secretary Cleaver of the Illinois State Federation of Labor.

"What is the fundamental difference between a free man and a slave? Both work, and each may labor in the service of another. Either may have a short or a long working day. Each may receive pay from the employer. Yet the free man makes progress that is impossible to the slave. Where is the great difference between them?

"It is not that the free man has the right to refuse to continue in service, that he may stop work, that he can quit his job without any fear of the law? And that the slave may not do this? That the slave is prevented by force of law? Do not all other differences between the two, the free man and the slave, grow out of this one fundamental difference?

"Compulsory arbitration denies the right to strike, and this denies the right to quit work and holds the laborer to his job against his will. Slavery, I tell you."

"But, you say, a third party is to hear the case and see that the employe gets justice done to the worker.

"Don't you know, brother, that every court since the world has ever known has had laws to 'protect' the slaves? Compulsory arbitration, the law holding the worker in the service of the employer, is a slave institution. The law holding the free man, instead of the slave, deciding for himself, and thus made the man a slave. To say that compulsory arbitration does not interfere with the right of the individual to quit his job is rank nonsense. Really, the individual is as with his fellows and he is helpless."

THE "DAY LABORER."

San Francisco, Sept. 16.—A local newspaper declared that "the day laborer in California" is better off than the "rather prosperous merchant lives in any other part of the world."

Edward Cunningham, of the Coast Seamen's Journal says this statement is "claptrap drivel."

"The day laborer," he continues, "that is those of us who belong to labor unions are receiving wages and working hours in cities are afflicted with unreasonable discontent, and are unworthy of citizenship in the American commonwealth.

"It is doubtful if anywhere else in the wide world is there such a large percentage of homeless men willing to work, who are living under a system which compels them to pick up their blankets and walk every time they are compelled to change jobs. Some 50,000 men in California are commonly termed 'blanket stiffs,' owing to the fact that their employers do not give them the consideration granted to horses and cattle in the provision of shelter. To the initiated, the lot of the 'day laborer in California' is far from enviable. There is no rather prosperous merchant' elsewhere, in so many words, that is to be envied than that of the household pets of the said merchant."

HILTON IS INQUISITIVE.

Wheeling, W. Va., Sept. 16.—Editor Hilton of the Wheeling Intelligencer would hold the belief that workingmen should be given the same treatment as other "factors" and would be there was a question into the "dear public" hopper. He would contention that railroad men should not be compelled to grant the eight-hour day, with its consequent increase in cost of living and investigation. we would answer: 'Why this discrimination?' What investigation was performed when the steel corporation raised when it put up the price of rails? What investigation was permitted the railroads when they put up the freight rates? Up the price of leaned money? Why should the workers be singled out in this thing?"

MILLIONS LOST TO PUBLIC.

Newark, N. J., Sept. 16.—Vice Chancellor Howell announces there is no hope of stockholders receiving any of the $20,000,000 stock of the Rock Island company held by them. The company was organized in 1902 to hold the stock of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad company, which, in turn, held the stock of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railway company. The substitution of the words "railroad" and "railway" shows the first-named company a separate concern.

The men who have looted this property are "public men" whose duty to the service employes is unconstitutional, confiscatory and un-American.

RUBBER WORKERS GAIN GROUND

Bridgeport, Conn., Sept. 16.—The management of the Sheman Hard Rubber company concluded to adjust differences with its striking employes and license the shop committee of the Rubber Workers' union, affiliated directly to the A. F. of L. The agreement is for a nine hour day and 10 per cent increase in wages.

The plant was forced to shut down and when Organizer Duffy volunteered his services a settlement was quickly reached granting wage increases of 5 cents an hour for a 50-hour week for time workers and substantial increases for piece workers.

CO-OPS. MAKE GOOD REPORTS.

West Frankfort, Ill., Sept. 16.—A report by the Co-operative society shows a big business carried on by its members. Total sales to members for three months, $8,118.92; total sales to non-members, $4,124.20.

Johnston City, Ill., Sept. 16.—During the last quarter the total sales to members of the Co-operative society was $7,909.49, and to non-members, $1,000.00. The society paid a 10 per cent dividend.

MAINE APPROVES 54-HOUR LAW.

Portland, Me., Sept. 16.—Last Monday the voters of this state gave the 54-hour law for women a big majority. This measure, passed at the last session of the legislature, became effective only after the suspended through the medium of the referendum, prohibits a female or minor from working more than 54 hours a week in any mercantile or manufacturing establishment.

WOOD CARVERS WANT MORE.

Chicago, Sept. 16.—The Wood Carvers' union is preparing to enforce a demand for wage increases of 5 cents an hour, to take effect October 1.

MOVIE OPERATORS GAIN.

Cleveland, Sept. 16.—Moving picture operators have raised wages from $17.50 to $26.75 a week.

PLUMBERS SECURE CONTRACT.

Toledo, Ohio, Sept. 16.—Plumbers and Steamfitters' union has secured a two years' contract. The eight-hour day and a $6 scale are agreed to.

INJUNCTION JUDGE SCORNED BY WORKERS

Detroit, Sept. 16.—Judge Van Zile tried to put some rules in operation in jail and offered freedom to five striking pattern makers, who have been jailed by him for violating an injunction, if they would promise to discontinue picketing.

When Judge Van Zile sentenced these workers he pounded on the sacredness of property and personal liberty which cost this nation billions of dollars to establish.

But this wise and fearless expounder of justice, who failed to secure the O. K. of a majority of the voters of Detroit when he was a candidate for re-election, is shown in another light as he offered freedom on his terms. "I don't want your O. K.," said the Labor day parade tomorrow," he whined.

The pattern makers said they would give him a reply later, and when their visits had rested they promptly signed the following letter and forwarded it to Judge Van Zile's residence by special messenger:

"Relative to your conference with us this afternoon, we submit the following answer to your proposition to release us from jail after being confined here for 14 days, to-wit:

"Under no consideration will we surrender our constitutional rights to satisfy the supreme power of labor.

"We hold that no one man has the right to deny us the privilege of passing any shop whether on strike or not, or to prevent us from talking to any man with the intent in view of joining our organization to better his condition in life."

Detroit, Sept. 16.—Judge Connolly has ordered the release of five striking pattern makers on bonds of $500 each until the supreme court passes on the decision of Judge Van Zile, who fined and sentenced them to imprisonment in jail for violating an injunction not to picket or visit the homes of strikebreakers.

The validity of the writ was contested by attorneys representing the Detroit Manufacturers' association.

DANGERS IN MATTRESS MAKING.

Albany, N. Y., Sept. 16.—The state commissioner of labor, under authority vested in him by the last legislature, is attempting to enforce sanitary conditions in the manufacture of mattresses. In addition to manufacturers of bedding, Dr. Ross, medical inspector of the department of labor, said:

"Early in my work I noted the large percentage of disease among the men employed in mattress factories and presented the facts to the bureau of industrial hygiene. Investigations were made and my department visited all the larger plants in New York city, 97 in all, and the conditions found were simply appalling. In most of the plants dust lay thick on the floors, machines, and even on the rafters, while the very atmosphere was permeated with it and fairly to be seen. Not a few of the workmen were suffering from tuberculosis while others had various forms of lung trouble. Frequently the beds of the factories were in cellars, others in converted tenement houses, former bakeries, etc., and in not any address were of ventilation an proper toilet facilities.

"In many factories there were piles of second-hand mattresses lying around which were subsequently picked out and remade for private parties, etc., and in one place we found about 75 mattresses piled in the middle of the room, and the house and you can imagine the dirt, filth, vermin and disease they carried. Another thing we found was that mattresses were to be made up—not for private parties, but as part of new goods."

INDUSTRY'S FRIGHTFUL TOLL.

Harrisburg, Pa., Sept. 16.—The frightful mortality in Pennsylvania industries continue. Figures for the first eight months of this year show that there were 3,563 accidents, a daily average of 370. Of the total accidents, 1,582 were fatal. The average daily loss for the first eight months of the year is 196 fatalities and 20,760 accidents of all kinds.

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Fatal accidents for the year will total 40,452 persons, an increase of 1,078 over the preceding year. Of the total fatal accidents, 4,734 were from railroad accidents, and 47,374 from non-fatal accidents. Compensation agreements have been perfected in 592 of the fatal cases, giving support to 418 widows, 120 children, 1,062 children, 14 sisters, five brothers and one niece.

On August 1 there than $450,000 had been paid in death claims and that amount to be paid in fatality cases in which definite agreements have been made. Up to that time $1,200,000, had been paid out weekly over terms of years. The amount paid out in fatality cases on August 1 was more than $50,000.

OPPOSE FAKE HOMESTEADERS.

Denver, Sept. 16.—State officials have opened a war on fake homestead locaters. For the first time a newspaper has advertise falsely about homes in Colorado and their locate homesteaders for a consideration in land which are not as represented. In many cases, it is claimed, persons sell their homes and come to Colorado with the idea that they can secure land upon which they can make a living from the start and that they do not need any money after their arrival here.

JUDGES WANT MORE PAY.

Lansing, Mich., Sept. 16.—The Circuit Judges' association, officially known as the Michigan Association of Circuit Judges, has demanded a living wage for its members of $3,500 a year. At a meeting of the union, held in this city, the judges decided to ask the legislature to raise these figures to $5,000. In discussing methods to secure this increase it was decided to study the advantages of lobbying and the August body became public stricken.

GAINS IN PUEBLO.

Pueblo, Col., Sept. 16.—Painters have raised wages 40 cents a day as the result of a strike. Rates are now $4.80.

The Electrical Workers' union of this city have secured from $4.50 to $5 a day and secured the Saturday half holiday without a strike.

Public school teachers are discussing organization.

STEAM ENGINEERS MEET.

Newark, N. J., Sept. 16.—The biennial convention of the International Union of Steam and Operating Engineers was held in the city during the week. President Gompers addressed the delegates, devoting considerable time to the legislative gains made by organized labor during the past year.

UPHOLSTERERS WANT MORE.

Cincinnati, Sept. 16.—The Upholsterers' union has submitted a new wage scale to employers. It provides for a minimum wage of $18 a week.